

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 INT-05 IO-10 /083 W
----- 047666

R 041010Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 564

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0503

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PP

SUBJECT: BSIP SELF GOVERNMENT

REF: PORT MORESBY 461

1. PHIL JACKSON, HEAD OF AUSTRALIAN OFFICE IN HONIARA, WHO IS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA ON ORIENTATION TRIP, TOLD ME MAY 29 THAT HE EXPECTS TENSIONS TO RISE BETWEEN SOLOMON ISLANDERS AND BRITS FOLLOWING SELF-GOVERNMENT.

2. BRITS HAVE NOTED EVENTS IN PNG AND ARE TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN BSIP. SPECIFICALLY, JACKSON SAID, BRITS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO TURN OVER RESERVE POWERS TO BSIP DURING PERIOD OF SELF-GOVERNMENT, IN CONTRAST TO AUSTRALIAN TRANSFER TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA. CHIEF MINISTER MAMALONI WILL EXPECT THE TRANSFER AND BE VERY ANGRY WHEN BRITS REFUSE, BUT JACKSON EXPECTS THE BRITS TO STAND FAST. HE SAID RELATIONS WILL BECOME VERY STRAINED. IN PARTICULAR MAMALONI WILL WANT CONTROL OVER THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE POLICE.

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3. COMMENT: BRITS' REFUSAL TO TRANSFER POWERS DURING

SELF GOVERNMENT WILL ASSUREDLY KEEP UP THE SOLOMON ISLANDERS' PRESSURES FOR INDEPENDENCE, AS THAT WILL BE THE ONLY ROUTE TO CONTROL OF THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. WHEN THE AUSTRALIANS TRANSFERRED RESIDUAL POWERS TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THEY ALSO TRANSFERRED THE FOCUS OF CRITICISM FROM CANBERRA TO PORT MORESBY. THE RESULT WAS THAT A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY AND PRESSURE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST CANBERRA AND IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE HAS INSTEAD BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST PORT MORESBY AND IN FAVOR OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.
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